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16 November 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment
Director, Geographic and Cartographic Research

FROM: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Questions Raised by South African Study

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1. I just read your excellent study, "Could Partition Resolve the South African Dilemma?". Please pass my compliments to [redacted]
[redacted] on a very thorough piece of work.

2. Looking at this raises two questions in my mind, however. The first is whether we can afford the prodigious amount of effort and cost that must have gone into doing this just because a member of the NSC Staff asks for it. I hope that we really thought this was going to be a worthwhile effort for a much larger audience than simply Tom Thornton (and I'm not taking any exception with Tom who I think is a fine and productive member of the NSC Staff). It does seem to me, however, that if we are constrained in resources we must have some set of controls for saying no, even though we would like to be responsive.

3. My second problem is whether we can afford to accept a stricture as to distribution. Any time I see the NSC telling us not to distribute something, I get nervous. I'm sure there was no intent to restrict us here, but if we were doing something that couldn't be distributed, it reinforces the question of whether we could afford the resources to do the job in the first place. I have increased the distribution with a personal note to the Vice President and Ambassador Young, as I think they both would be quite interested in this topic.

4. No reply required.

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